THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. Kesava Pillai moved for permission to introduce a Bill to make better provision for the extension of Elementary education in Travancore, by making that education compulsory, on the lines of the Mysore Elementary Education Regulation of 1912, and, in doing so, he observed that the Government had already taken steps to encourage Elementary education, by increasing the number of the Elementary Schools and by making Primary education wholly free. But he pointed out that, as matters stood, the parents of children of school-going age were under no obligation to send the children to school. He therefore thought it desirable to enact a Regulation similar to the Mysore law.

Mr. Subba Iyer stated that a law of the kind was hardly necessary in Travancore, in-as-much-as Elementary education here was largely availed of by the public, as would be evident from the fact that several of the Elementary Schools in the State were overcrowded. Mr. Subba Iyer also pointed out that a Regulation making Elementary education compulsory would necessarily involve additional expenditure, as the Government would have to open additional schools and to appoint more teachers. In that view, Mr. Subba Iyer said, the measure was one affecting the public revenues, and therefore the Mover ought to have obtained the previous sanction in writing of the Dewan, in accordance with Clause (*a*) of the 1st Proviso of Section 12 of the Legislative Council Regulation, V of 1073.

Mr. Kesava Pillai replied to say that his information was that the existing Elementary Schools did not, in all places, attract pupils in sufficiently large numbers, that there were instances in which the parents concerned had to be influenced to send their children to school and that, as the policy of the Government was to have a large number of Elementary Schools, it was necessary to adopt measures to ensure such schools being adequately attended by pupils. In regard to the objection that the measure would have the result of affecting the revenues of the State, Mr. Kesava Pillai observed that the proposed Mysore Regulation had put no such charge on the revenues of that State, as no obligation was created on the Government to establish new schools, the only obligation imposed by the law being on parents to send their children to *existing* schools within a specified area. Clause (a) of the 1st Proviso to Section 12 of the Legislative Council Regulation, had, therefore, in Mr. Kesava Pillai's opinion, no application.

The President observed that, in his opinion, there was no need to object to the motion at that stage, but that, when, after the introduction of the Bill, its principle would come up for consideration, the Bill might be rejected, if it should be found that the proposed law would be un-workable or would have the effect of subjecting the Government to any additional responsibility or expenditure which they were not prepared for.

Subject to the above condition, permission was granted to Mr. Kesava Pillai to introduce his Bill.

THE CHRISTIAN INTESTATE SUCCESSION BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer said that, in pursuance of the Representations made at the successive Sessions of the Popular Assembly, to the effect that there was uncertainty and diversity of practice among the several denominations of the Indian Christian Communities in Travancore, regarding their system of succession and inheritance, the Government appointed a Committee to investigate the customs of the several Communities and to report thereon with a view to definite legislation. The report of the Committee had been received and had been published in the Gazette. Mr. Subba Iyer therefore asked for leave to introduce a Bill to amend and define the rules of law applicable to intestate succession among the Indian Christians in Travancore.

Seconded by Doctor Poonen.

Permission was granted accordingly.

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